

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida et al. (EP 1 111 558). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yoshida disclose a gaming machine that includes variable display means, starting means, stopping means, profit provision means, image display means, sound generation and control means. The variable display means variably displays a plurality of types of symbols required for gaming. The starting means starts the variable display of the symbols. The stopping means stops the symbols being variably displayed. The profit provision means provide a player with profits if a combination of symbols constitutes a predetermined winning mode when the symbols are stopped and displayed. The image display means displays information about a game. The sound generation means generates a sound relevant to a game. The control means electrically controls the variable display means, the starting means, the stopping means, the profit provision means, the image display means, and the sound generation means on the basis of a hierarchical processing structure. The control means also includes main control means for controlling a first hierarchical level, which is a highest hierarchical processing level of the gaming machine, intermediate control means for controlling a second hierarchical level situated lower than the first hierarchical level, under control of the main control means, and lower control means for controlling a third hierarchical level situated lower than the second hierarchical level, under control of the intermediate control means.

Claim 1, as amended by incorporating the features of claim 2, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon, a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device and an abnormality notification device for notifying an abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs. Claim 1 recites that the

abnormality notification device notifies information concerning with the abnormality in plural times according to stages of restoration work from an abnormal state two a normal state.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach the abnormality notification device notifies information concerning with the abnormality in plural times according to stages of restoration work from an abnormal state to a normal state. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the features of the applied art because such features are devoid in the applied art. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite. For instance, claim 4 recites that the abnormality notification device changes the information concerning with the abnormality according to progress in the restoration work of the abnormality or lapse of a predetermined time. Claim 6 recites that an abnormality occurrence history storing device for storing a predetermined history of the information concerning with the abnormality and that the abnormality notification device changes a notifying mode of the information based on the predetermined history of the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device.

Claim 2 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida as applied to claims 1-6 and further in view of Loose et al. (EP 1 260 928). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose teaches a reel spinning slot machine with superimposed video images.

As discussed above, claims 1-6 are allowable over Yoshida. Loose fails to cure the deficiencies of Yoshida and therefore claims 1 and 3 -6 are allowable over the combination of these references.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 8-15 also includes features not shown in the applied art.

Claim 8 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon, a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device and an abnormality notification device for notifying an abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs. Claim 1 recites that the abnormality notification device notifies information concerning with the abnormality and the information includes at least an error message and a restoration procedure message with the error message and the restoration procedure message serially occurring and with the error message and the restoration procedure message occurring serially multiple times.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 8. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach or suggest that the information notified by the abnormality notification device includes at least an error message and a restoration procedure message with the error message and the restoration procedure message serially occurring and with the error message and the restoration procedure message occurring serially multiple times.

Claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 and include all of the features of claim 8. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons claim 8 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

New claim 15 is a combination of presently amended claim 1 and presently amended claim 6 to restrict contents described in paragraph [0069] in the specification.

Regarding "RAM" in [0327] in Yoshida, [0370] explains that "Error status are added to the second byte. The command code is transmitted upon detection of error or upon recovery from an error." Yoshida does not at all disclose or teach to "store information concerning with the number of times of the abnormality occurrence" described in the new claim 15 (current claim 1 + current claim 6).

That is, Yoshida does not at all disclose or teach the two points: (1) "an abnormality occurrence history storing device for counting a number of times of the abnormality occurrence and storing information concerning with the number of times of the abnormality occurrence"; and (2) "wherein the abnormality notification device changes a notifying mode of the information based on the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device". Therefore, the new claim 15 is allowable over the applied art.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

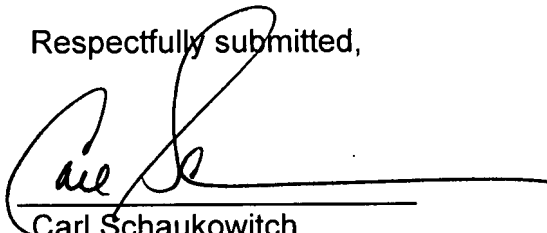
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the

same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 16, 2007

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (two months)

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